



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

25 JANUARY 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Sacramento – Lawyers Want Pimping Charges Against Backpage.com Dropped

(U) The operators of Backpage.com pushed for pimping charges to be tossed out for the second time yesterday, two weeks after the website that prosecutors dubbed an online brothel stopped advertising adult services in the face of a congressional investigation. The attorney general's office charged Backpage executives Carl Ferrer, Michael Lacey and James Larkin last month with conspiracy to commit pimping and 26 counts of money laundering. Ferrer also is charged with 12 counts of pimping, seven involving children. The expanded charges came two weeks after a Sacramento County Superior Court Judge dismissed an earlier case, ruling that the website's ads were free speech protected by the federal Communications Decency Act.

SOURCE: 24 January 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Sacramento – Police Arrest 20 Suspected Gang Members

(U) A Sacramento Police Department investigation into a neighborhood street gang has resulted in the arrest of 20 suspected gang members. Police announced the arrests at a news conference yesterday, saying the suspects are believed to be connected with crimes including attempted murder, human trafficking, robbery, narcotics and firearm-related charges. The investigation, dubbed Operation Challenger, began last November amid an increase in violence between the gang, who call themselves the Strawberry Manor Gangster Bloods, and the neighboring Del Paso Heights Bloods.

SOURCE: 24 January 2017, [Sacramento Bee](#)

(U) San Diego – All-Time High of 1093 Data Breaches Reported in US in 2016

(U) According to a new report from the Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC) and CyberScout, 2016 saw an all-time high of 1,093 reported data breaches, a 40 percent increase over the previous year's total of 780. ITRC president and CEO Eva Velasquez said it's not clear whether the increase is due an actual surge in breaches or simply due to more states making the information available. The business sector saw the most data breach incidents (494) in 2016, followed by the healthcare industry (377 incidents), the education sector (98), the government/military (72), and the banking/credit/financial sector (52).

SOURCE: 24 January 2017, [eSecurity Planet](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Illinois – Man Sentenced for Celebrity Hack

(U) Chicago – A judge yesterday sentenced an Illinois man accused of hacking into the electronic accounts of 30 celebrities and stealing private information, including videos and photos, to nine months in prison. Edward Majerczyk will also have to pay \$5,700 in restitution for one victim's counseling, the judge ruled. Majerczyk was accused of orchestrating a phishing scheme that illegally accessed more than 300 email and other online accounts.

SOURCE: 24 January 2017, [NBC Chicago](#)

(U) Michigan – 69 Cases of Confirmed Zika in Michigan

(U) Lansing – As of 20 January, Michigan has confirmed 69 cases of Zika virus in 2017, compared to 133 cases in all of 2016. The cases include three pregnant women with the virus. All the cases are travel-related, health officials say. To date, no babies have been born in Michigan with evidence of Zika infection at birth, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Of the three pregnant women with evidence of Zika virus infection, two have since given birth to healthy babies and the third baby has not been born yet.

SOURCE: 24 January 2017, [Michigan Live](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Belgium – Seven Arrested in Anti-Terror Raids

(U) Brussels – Belgian police have detained seven people in a series of anti-terror raids in the Brussels area relating to an investigation into the possible return of fighters from Syria. The federal prosecutor's office said in a statement that the detentions came during eight dawn raids, but stressed that the investigation wasn't linked to the Brussels or Paris attacks over the past two years. Belgian authorities have been on high alert since suicide bombers attacked the Brussels airport and subway system last March, killing 32 people.

SOURCE: 25 January 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Somalia – Militants Ram Car Bomb into Hotel

(U) Mogadishu – Islamist militants rammed a car bomb into the gate of a hotel in Somalia's capital Mogadishu today and stormed inside, killing at least 15 people, government officials said. Gunfire rang out as fighters entered the Dayah Hotel, which is popular with politicians. A second blast shook the area shortly afterwards, injuring several journalists and others nearby. Colonel Abdiqadir Hussein, a police officer, said that security forces eventually managed to secure the building. Al-Shabaab, which until 2011 controlled much of Somalia including Mogadishu, claimed responsibility for the attack.

SOURCE: 25 January 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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